

In response to the Advisory Action dated January 2, 2002, a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 has been filed and it respectfully requested that the following amendment be entered in this application.

In the Claims:

Amend claims 1 and 2 to read as follows:

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1. An aqueous solution consisting of[comprising]:
potassium sorbate dissolved in tap water or deionized water at a concentration of 0.3%, by weight, or higher, the aqueous solution having a pH of 4.5 or higher;
providing a solution that has lower electrical conductivity and lower oxygen content than tap water such that when the solution is exposed to a metal surface the metal surface will remain free of rust, corrosion and scale.

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2. (Amended) An aqueous solution consisting of:
potassium sorbate dissolved in tap water or deionized water in which the concentration of potassium sorbate is in the range of 0.30% to 1.75%, and the aqueous solution having a pH of 4.5 or higher;
providing a solution that has lower electrical conductivity and lower oxygen content than tap water such that when the solution is exposed to a metal surface the metal surface will remain free of rust, corrosion and scale.

REMARKS

The Office Action has been carefully considered. The application now is believed to be in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and for the following reasons.

In the Office Action of October 9, 2001, claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner